

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 VOE-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00

AID-05 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 1018

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF CB LA VS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL QUERIES ON PROPOSED EXPANDED PAROLE
PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 029797

FOLLOWING ARE VERBATIM TEXTS OF RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM ICEM
AND ICMC REQUESTED IN REFTEL. REPLY FROM UNHCR EXPECTED
TODAY WHICH WILL BE SENT WHEN RECEIVED.

ICEM

1. ICEM HAS NOT ATTEMPTED DETERMINE DESIRES OF REFUGEES FOR
RESETTLEMENT BECAUSE EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT MOST ARE INFLUENCED
BY THE RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE WHICH WILL INSURE
THEIR EARLY DEPARTURE AND THEREFORE ARE SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE
CHANGE UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL HAS RELATIVES OR FRIENDS IN A
PARTICULAR COUNTRY STOP THE FOLLOWING ARE THE COUNTRIES IN
WHICH MOST OF THE REFUGEES ARE INTERESTED GIVEN IN ORDER OF
PREFERENCE USA, FRANCE, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, SCANDINAVIA, OTHER EUROPE, NEW ZEALAND
OTHER ASIA, LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA STOP
2. THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES HAVE ACCEPTED OR INDICATED A WILLINGNESS
TO ACCEPT REFUGEES FROM THAILAND BUT MOST HAVE NOT STATED
OFFICIALLY ANY QUOTAS: FRANCE IN 1975 RECEIVED SOME 4,000

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REFUGEES FROM THAILAND AND HAS RECENTLY INDICATED THAT THEY

WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT IN 1976 BETWEEN 10000 TO 12000
STOP CANADA, AUSTRALIA BELGIUM ALL INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS,
AUSTRIA PROBABLY ANOTHER 50 PERSONS UNDER EXISTING SCHEME FOR
200 FROM HONGKONG/THAILAND STOP FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
HAS A SCHEME FOR 1,000 REFUGEES FROM WAR THEATRES IN VIETNAM
AND MIGHT CONSIDER ACCEPTING CAMBODIANS OR LAOTIANS FROM
THAILAND AS WELL AFTER THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE APPLICANTS HAS
BEEN DETERMINED. SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, ITALY, SWITZERLAND,
NETHERLANDS INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS AND MOST LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES IF INDIVIDUAL HAS QUALIFICATIONS TO MEET SELECTIVE
MIGRATION CRITERIA STOP

3. ICEM HAS NOT MAINTAINED STATISTICS ON FORMER DIPLOMATS STOP
THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE WERE THE LEADING RECEPTION
COUNTRIES, FRANCE BEING WILLING TO ACCEPT WITHOUT A VISA ANYONE
WHO HAD A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT AND ATTRACTING MANY WHO HAD
STUDIED THERE STOP OUTSIDE OF ASIA A RATHER LARGE NUMBER OF
COUNTRIES PERMITTED FORMER DIPLOMATS TO REMAIN STOP
4. IN THE COUNTRIES MENTIONED UNDER 3 ABOVE THE ROLE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAS VARIED CONSIDERABLY STOP
FOR EXAMPLE IN FRANCE THE GOVT SUBSIDIZED ESTABLISHMENT OF A
SPECIAL INDOCHINA REFUGEE COMMITTEE SERVING AS AN UMBRELLA
ORGANIZATION TO INCORPORATE COUNTERPARTS OF INTERNATIONAL VOLAGS
AS WELL AS SPECIAL AGENCIES SUCH AS AMITIES FRANCO-KHMER ETC
STOP IN CANADA THE GOVT USED ITS LABOUR OFFICES FOR PLACEMENT
RELYING ON VOLAGS TO HELP IN PROBLEMS OF HOUSING EDUCATION ETC

THICM:

AUSTRIA. THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT OFFERED TO RECEIVE
200 REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA IN MAY 1975. AS OF FEB. 11, 1975
REFUGEES HAVE ARRIVED AND IT TOOK A VERY LONG TIME UNTIL THE
FIRST GROUPS CAME. IT WAS DECIDED THAT 100 REFUGEES WOULD
BE SELECTED FROM HONG KONG AND 100 FROM THAILAND. THE
SELECTION WAS MADE BY THE UNHCR, BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT
MANY OF THE REFUGEES WERE RATHER RELUCENT TO GO TO A COUNTRY
WHERE THERE WAS NO COMMUNITY OF REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA
AND OF WHICH THEY KNEW NOTHING AT ALL. IT IS THEREFORE
UNLIKELY A FURTHER QUOTA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE
AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE IT IS THE GENERAL FEELING
THAT INTEGRATION WILL BE DIFFICULT.

THE BASIC ASSISTANCE IN RECEPTION CENTRES WAS ORGANIZED
BY THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT THAT IS SPENDING LARGE AMOUNTS
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OF MONEY FOR PROVISIONAL ACCOMMODATION IN THE BEGINNING AND
ALSO FOR PERMANENT HOUSING. THE LOCAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
(CARITAS AND WCC) WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER IN SOLVING INDIVIDUAL
PROBLEMS AND PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE. IN 1975
CARITAS AUSTRIA HAD A BUDGET OF US\$12,111 FOR THIS PURPOSE.
THE BUDGET FOR 1976 IS APPROX. THE SAME PLUS US\$11,000
FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.
FRANCE. ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS,
9,282 REFUGEES HAD ARRIVED BY JANUARY 7, 1976. IT IS ESTIMATED
THAT THE MONTHLY INTAKE THIS YEAR WILL BE AROUND 1,000-1,200,
ATTAINING A TOTAL FOR CY 1976 OF UP TO 15,000.
ALL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES COOPERATE IN PROVIDING HOSTEL
ACCOMMODATION FOR NEW ARRIVALS AND SECOURS CATHOLIQUE
DOES ITS SHARE IN THIS EFFORT BY MAKING AVAILABLE CATHOLIC
CENTRES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF FRANCE. IN ADDITION, SECOURS
CATHOLIQUE SPENDS APPROX. \$25,000 PER MONTH FOR INDIVIDUAL
ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. A DISTRIBUTION OF
CLOTHING AND BLANKETS WAS ORGANIZED WHEN THE WINTER STARTED.
ESPECIALLY AT THE SECOURS CATHOLIQUE CENTRE FOR FOREIGNERS
AT RUE DE LA COMETE, PARIS, THERE WERE DAILY APPROX. 30
BREADWINNERS ASKING FOR BLANKETS AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD NEEDS.
THESE WERE HEADS OF FAMILIES, WHO HAD NOT GONE TO THE
OFFICIAL RECEPTION CENTRES, BUT HAD TRIED TO MANAGE ON THEIR OWN.
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES OF SECOURS CATHOLIQUE IN PARIS
INCLUDE THE IDEA TO HAND THE REFUGEES A "COUPON DE FETE"
FOR THEIR NEW YEAR (TET, 31 JANUARY) AND MEAL COUPONS.
ON A DIOCESAN LEVEL ADDITIONAL EFFORTS ARE UNDERTAKEN,
BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN DETAILS AT SHORT NOTICE.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8105

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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DENKARK. CARITAS DENMARK IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN ASSISTANCE
TO VIETNAMESE CHILDREN AND THE DIRECTOR OF CARITAS DENMARK,
MSGR. BALLIN, WHO IS ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICMC, IS AT
PRESENT IN THE FAR EAST LOOKING FOR SUITABLE PERSONS TO LOOK

AFTER THE CHILDREN.
GERMANY THE CATHOLIC ACADEMIC SOCIETY PROVIDES
SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED BY CARITAS.
AUSTRALIA. OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN AUSTRALIA INFORMED US
THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED RECENTLY TO ADMIT 800 INDOCHINA
REFUGEES. IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THESE REFUGEES
WILL BE ENTITLED TO RECEPTION IN GOVERNMENT CENTRES, BUT
CERTAINLY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE
INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE ON A CASE TO CASE BASIS.
FIRST OF ALL IT HAS TO BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE PATTERN
OF ASSISTANCE IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES E.G. IS ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE IN THE UNITED STATES, WHERE VOLUNTARY
AGENCIES HAVE TRADITIONALLY PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN
REFUGEE ASSISTANCE AND WHERE THEY DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB IN
RESETTLING REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. OF COURSE, THIS
ASSISTANCE WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY VERY GENEROUS GOVERNMENT
SUBSIDIES TO THE WORK PERFORMED BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.
AS FAR AS MOST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED, THE
PATTERN IS THE FOLLOWING: GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES AND MOST,
IF NOT ALL, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SHARE THE WORK, BUT THERE IS
NO REPARITION OF THE CASELOAD. E.G. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD
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MAKE AVAILABLE SOME BASIC ASSISTANCE THAT IS ADMINISTRED
BY THE AUTHORITIES THEMSELVES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
EXISTING SOCIAL SERVICES. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES DIVIDE THE
WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR TRADITION, THEIR FINANCIAL
POSSIBILITIES, ETC. IN MOST COUNTRIES COORDINATING
COMMITTEES SEE THAT THERE IS NO OVERLAPPING AND THAT
FUNDS ARE CHANNELLED IN THE MOST ECONOMIC WAY AND REACH THE
MOST NEEDY.
THE ADMISSION POLICY OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS
ANY OTHER POTENTIAL COUNTRY OF RECEPTION DOES NOT DEPEND
ON VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MAKING OFFERS OF SPONSOR-
SHIP. THIS POLICY IS DECIDED ON A GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL AND
CONTINGENTS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO RECEIVE SPECIFIC
NUMBERS IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES. APPEALS TO RECEIVE REFUGEES
FROM INDOCHINA HAVE REPEATEDLY BEEN MADE BY THE UNHCR
WHOSE MANDATE IT IS TO LAUNCH SUCH APPEALS IN EVERY REFUGEE
SITUATION AT THE REQUEST OF GOVERNMENTS. NEEDLESS TO SAY
THAT THE ICMC HAS DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THESE
APPEALS THROUGH THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC AGENCIES IN ALL
POTENTIAL RECEIVING COUNTRIES. BRUNGART

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